

What's Growing in My Garden?

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** Make sure your child sees you reading—it can be a magazine, a newspaper, or a book. If you are reading a magazine or newspaper, read parts of it out loud to your child.
- **SHARE WORDS** Teach your child the names of flowers and vegetables. Explore unique vegetables in the supermarket.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Repeat rhymes over and over so that your child can eventually join in. Share more rhymes related to gardens and flowers, such as “Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary”; “Oats, Peas, Beans, and Barley Grow”; “Ring around the Rosie”; and “Rain, Rain, Go Away.”
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing songs with repetitive phrases and verses that follow a pattern like “The Seeds Grow” and “My Busy Garden,” because they build critical early math and reading skills.
- **SHARE STORIES** Go on a nature walk with your child. What do you see? Can your child help make up stories about plants and flowers you see?
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Make a little garden and have your child help plant the seeds, water the plants, and tend them. You do not even need outdoor space—container gardens indoors are fine. Or pretend to garden in a sandbox.
- **SHARE WRITING** Have your child water plants or flowers with a trigger spray bottle. This helps develop hand movements that are needed later for control of a pencil or scissors.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

It's Time for Storytime

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

It's time for storytime, (*Clap hands to beat*)
It's time for storytime,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
It's time for storytime.

We listen to some stories, (*Two fingers point to ears*)
We listen to some stories,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We listen to some stories.

We sing some songs and rhymes, (*Two fingers point to mouth*)
We sing some songs and rhymes,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We sing some songs and rhymes.

And now we'll have some fun, (*Pat knees or legs*)
And now we'll have some fun,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
And now we'll have some fun!

The Seeds Grow

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

The gardener plants the seeds,
(*Pretend to plant seeds in ground*)
The gardener plants the seeds,
Deep down inside the ground,
The gardener plants the seeds.

The sun warms the earth,
(*Hold hands above head like sun*)
The sun warms the earth,
And wakes the sleeping seeds below,
The sun warms the earth.

The clouds bring the rain,
(*Wiggle fingers from high to low like rain*)
The clouds bring the rain,
And give the thirsty seeds a drink,
The clouds bring the rain.

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

The gardener pulls the weeds,
(*Make pulling motion with hands*)
The gardener pulls the weeds,
'Cause little plants need room to grow,
The gardener pulls the weeds.

The seeds grow into flowers,
(*Wiggle hands with fingers extended from low to high*)
The seeds grow into flowers,
Like the brightest rainbow,
The garden's full of flowers!

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My Busy Garden

(sung to the tune of "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain")

Oh, the ants are busy digging all around—dig, dig!
(*Make digging motions*)

Oh, the ants are busy digging all around—dig, dig!
See them scurry here and there, tossing dirt into the air,
Oh, the ants are busy digging all around—dig, dig!

Oh, the bees are busy buzzing all around—buzz, buzz!
(*Hold up two fists with thumbs extended and move around buzzing*)

Oh, the bees are busy buzzing all around—buzz, buzz!
See them buzzing here and there, lots of pollen in the air,
Oh, the bees are busy buzzing all around—buzz, buzz!

Oh, the beetles are busy chewing all around—chomp, chomp!
(*Open and close hands as if chewing*)

Oh, the beetles are busy chewing all around—chomp, chomp!
See them chewing leaves and flowers as they while
away the hours,

Oh, the beetles are busy chewing all around—chomp, chomp!

Oh, the insects are all busy, yes, they are—so busy!
(*Clap loudly on "so busy"*)

Oh, the insects are all busy, yes, they are—so busy!
My garden is a buzzin', with insects by the dozen,
Oh, the insects are all busy, yes, they are—busy, busy!

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This Is the Way

(sung to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush")

This is the way we dig the dirt,
(*Make digging motion with hands*)

Dig the dirt, dig the dirt,
This is the way we dig the dirt,
So early in the morning.

Additional Verses

This is the way we plant the seed ...

(*Pinch fingers together and apart to plant seed*)

This is the way we water the seed ... (*Make pouring motion*)

This is the way we watch it grow ... (*Slowly raise arms*)

Rhymes

Tiny Seeds

Tiny seed planted just right,
(*Child tucks into a ball*)
Not a breath of air, not a ray of light.
Rain falls slowly to and fro,
And now the seed begins to grow. (*Child begins to unfold*)
Slowly reaching for the light,
With all its energy, all its might.
The little seed's work is almost done,
To grow up tall and face the sun.
(*Child stands up tall with arms outstretched*)

Slowly, Slowly

Slowly, slowly, very slowly (*Walk fingers up arm slowly*)
Creeps the garden snail.
Slowly, slowly, very slowly
Up the wooden rail.

Quickly, quickly, very quickly (*Run fingers up arm*)
Runs the little mouse.
Quickly, quickly, very quickly
'Round about the house.

Five Little Peas

Five little peas in a peapod pressed, (*Hold fist in front of body*)
One grew, two grew, and so did the rest,
(*Extend one finger, then another finger, then the rest*)
They grew and grew and did not stop,
(*Raise both arms up slowly*)
Until one day that peapod POPPED!
(*Clap hands on "POPPED!"*)

Wave Goodbye

Wave high. Wave low. (*Suit motions to words*)
I think it's time, we gotta go.
Wave your elbows. Wave your toes.
Wave your tongue and wave your nose.
Wave your knees. Wave your lips.
Blow a kiss, with fingertips.
Wave your ears. Wave your hair.
Wave your belly and derriere.
Wave your chin. Wave your eye.
Wave your hand and say "goodbye."
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